

the truth of the old adage, that "It is the unexpected that happens."

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## SPRING MIGRATION IN MIDDLE WESTERN OHIO.

BY W. F. HENNINGER.

This spring in many respects resembled the wet season of 1907. Birds that usually appear by the middle of April not showing up till late in May, cold waves driving back to unknown regions some of the earlier migrants, for instance the Chimney Swift came on April 24th, 6:30 P. M. and stayed that day till the evening of the 25th, when they disappeared till May 3rd. May 5th and 6th were the only dates on which the more tender birds arrived in great hordes; the ducks and water-birds seemed to be in no way affected by the weather in their migrations. Some interesting and early records were made. I give the list of 140 migrants according to first dates and individuals with some annotations:

February 20—Robin 2.

February 22—Killdeer 1.

March 1—Bewick's Wren 2. Bluebird 2.

March 5—Bronzed Grackle 4.

March 6—Loramie reservoir — Mallard 5. Red-legged Black Duck 1.

March 8—Towhee 2. Phoebe 1. Field Sparrow 2. Red-winged Blackbird 5. (March 9—Dawson's earliest record, perhaps earliest state record.) Pintail 5—shot, American Merganser 1,—Loramie reservoir.

March 16—At Canal (Miami)—shot. American Golden-eye 7. Shoveller 1. Pied-billed Grebe 1. American White Pelican 3 on a ditch in the field five miles west of New Bremen. (An early record and one of the few spring records in this state).

March 19—Vesper Sparrow 3. Turkey Vulture 4.

March 20—Lesser Scaup Duck 1—Loramie reservoir—shot.

March 24—Loramie reservoir—Green-winged Teal 2. Baldpate, 2 females—shot. This agrees with my dates in Southern Ohio and is earlier than those for Oberlin and Northern Ohio. Pectoral Sandpiper 4. Early record.

March 25—Wood Duck 6—Loramie reservoir.

March 26—Chipping Sparrow 2.

March 27—Hooded Merganser 2—shot. Scaup Duck 8—Loramie reservoir.

March 28—Grand Reservoir—Woodcock 1. American Coot 10.

March 30—Horned Grebe 1.—Canal.

March 31—Mourning Dove 2. Great Blue Heron 1—Shelby county.

April 1—Grand reservoir—Wilson's Snipe 1. Tree Swallow 3. Herring Gull 5. Bonaparte Gull 2.

April 3—Barn Swallow 1.

April 5—Purple Martin 2—Late date.

April 8—Loramie reservoir—Blue-winged Teal 10. Ruddy Duck 4. Ring-necked Duck 1.

April 10—Proven Thrasher 1. Olive-backed Thrush 2. Hermit Thrush 1.

April 14—Buffhead 2—shot—Canal—late. American Pipit 7. Northern Shrike 1—last date. Tree Sparrow 2—last date. Pigeon Hawk 1. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1.

April 15—Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2—Staid till May 15.

April 16—Grasshopper Sparrow 2. Savanna Sparrow 10. Red-breasted Merganser 10—shot—Loramie reservoir.

April 17—Black-crowned Night Heron 10—shot—Loramie reservoir. Early state record.

April 18—White-crowned Sparrow 2.

April 19—At the Grand reservoir—Least Sandpiper 1—shot—earliest state record. Greater Yellow-legs 16—1 shot. Bartramian Sandpiper 2. American Bittern 1—shot. Spotted Sandpiper 9. American Golden Plover 25. Last Winter Wren seen. House Wren 3. Louisiana Water-Thrush 2. Last Fox Sparrow. Sora 2. King Rail 2. Common Tern 13. Black Tern 3. Swamp Sparrow 3. Rough-winged Swallow 3

April 20—Marsh Hawk 2. Rusty Blackbird 5.—lasts.

April 24—Chimney Swift 6:30 p. m. sharp.

April 25—Oven-bird 2.

April 28—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3.

April 30—Baltimore Oriole 4. Yellow Warbler 6. Catbird 1.

May 3—Black-throated Green Warbler 2. Black-throated Blue Warbler 1. Slate-colored Junco 5—Last date. Bobolink 3—5 p. m. sharp.

May 4—Red-eyed Vireo 3. Orchard Oriole 1.

May 5—Warbler Day: Kingbird 2. Myrtle Warbler 1. American Redstart 2. Black and White Warbler 1. Wilson's Thrush 1. Semipalmated Sandpiper 4.

May 6—Migration at its high—Birds in swarms. Water-Thrush 1. Blue-winged Warbler 3. Golden-winged Warbler 2. Orange-crowned Warbler 1. Tennessee Warbler 10. Blue-headed Vireo 2. Gray-cheeked Thrush 20. Scarlet Tanager 7. Yellow-legs 1. Northern Yellow-throat 5. Yellow-breasted Chat 2. Chestnut-sided Warbler 3. Blackburnian Warbler 50. Magnolia Warbler 2. Green Heron 2. Cliff Swallow 2. Yellow-billed Cuckoo 2. Black-billed Cuckoo 2.

May 7—Cape May Warbler 2.

May 10—Wood Thrush 3. Least Bittern 5. Long-billed Marsh Wren 20.

May 12—Bay-breasted Warbler 5. Black-poll Warbler 2. Dickcissel 1. Whippoorwill 2. Nighthawk 1.

May 14—Indigo Bunting 1.

May 15—The laggards coming in: Nashville Warbler 10. Green-crested Flycatcher 2. Least Flycatcher 2. Alder Flycatcher 6. Palm Warbler 10. Canadian Warbler 30. Wilson's Warbler 4. Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1. Yellow-throated Vireo 4. Mourning Warbler 1. Cerulean Warbler 1.

May 18—Wood Pewee 5.

May 21—Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 5.

No "All Day with the Birds" was attempted this year. Attention was paid principally to first dates of migrants and

the conditions that governed the first arrivals. These were mostly on rainy or cloudy days, for the earlier birds, while the warblers waited carefully for the warmer waves.

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## ABNORMAL COLORATION OF THE SCAUP DUCK.

BY W. F. HENNINGER.

Among a series of 10 (8 males and 2 females) of the Scaup Duck (*Marila marila*) shot this spring on the Loramie Reservoir and the Miami Canal, there are three males (all shot March 27, 1909), that show a decidedly abnormal coloration. While the normal plumage of the belly and sides is pure white, one male (No. 736 coll. W. F. H.) has the biggest part of the belly grayish, with darker shaft streaks to each feather and a few brown feathers in the black breast. One male, No. 734 (coll. W. F. H.) has more brown feathers on the breast than black ones, these brownish feathers extending well up among the neck feathers. No. 738 (coll. W. F. H.) male has not only more brownish breast feathers than No. 734, but the whole lower breast, belly and abdomen beyond the anus are overlaid with a rusty-brownish wash extending upward on the side, and has one bright brown tail feather. This certainly was not caused by grease as the specimens were freshly killed, nor by any compound of iron in the water as suggested by Mr. I. F. Arrow in the *Auk*, April, 1909, p. 189. The color would not yield to chemical treatment and must be due to other causes. Mr. Leon J. Cole in the *Osprey*, 1897, p. 69, records a similar specimen of the Lesser Scaup Duck as No. 738 of my collection, only mine is the Big Scaup. No doubt there may be other specimens of *Marila marila* showing similar abnormal coloration in the large museums, but if so, they certainly have not been brought to light and it seems worth while to direct the attention of the working ornithologists to such occurrences.